

Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action of June 29, 2005 and the references cited therein have been carefully studied and reviewed, and in view of the foregoing Amendment and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors, improve the idiomatic English, and provide a written description for features of the invention clearly shown in the original drawings. The new drawings submitted herewith only introduce reference numerals designating such features. Accordingly, the new drawings and amendments to the specification contain no new matter.

Next, claim 1 has been amended so as to more clearly patentably distinguish the present invention over the reference to Blahnik (USP 6,347,918). More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the inclined bars 430 that connect the driving unit 460 to the doors 440, 450 in the gate valve. Thus, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the first and second doors 440, 450 are angled away from the gate walls 10 to uncover the doorways 410, 420 when the doors are lowered by the driving unit 460 via the inclined bars 430. Conversely, the first and second doors 440, 450 are moved onto the gate walls 10 over the doorways 410, 420 when the doors are raised by the driving unit 460 via the inclined bars 430.

The gate valve disclosed by Blahnik has a driving unit 17 and doors 21a, 23a. However, the gate valve does not include bars that connect the doors 21a, 23a to the driving unit 17 and are inclined relative to the vertical (the direction in which the doors are raised and lowered). Thus, Blahnik does not anticipate Applicant's claims as now amended


For these reasons, namely because of the differences between Applicant's invention, as is now claimed, and the references, including the lack of disclosure in Blahnik of a gate valve comprising a driving unit, a plurality of doors, and inclined bars connecting the doors to the driving unit such that doors can be angled away from the doorways of interconnected chambers, it is seen that the reference does not anticipate Applicant's claims under 35 USC 102. Accordingly, early reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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